

## Pope meets Arab delegation

VATICAN CITY (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II on Saturday met with an Arab League delegation seeking to mediate an end to the Lebanese conflict and expressed concern for the Christian community there, the Vatican said. The Pope received the foreign minister of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria in a 35-minute private audience. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro said the ministers described their efforts to bring peace to a "sovereign and independent Lebanon" and voiced their concern about the current situation in the country. Navarro reported the Pope said he hopes his work assures the "independence, freedom and integrity of Lebanon and the safeguarding of its particular value of a pluralistic country." The Holy See "expressed its well-known anxious concern for all the Lebanese and, in particular, for the future of the Christian community," the spokesman said. The Arab League delegation also met with Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state, and with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti and Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis.



# Jordan Times

An Independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Ceausescu, wife, top aides arrested but thousands killed

## Bloodbath in Romania

BUCHAREST (Agencies) — Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena were captured by the army Saturday, a day after a popular revolt swept them from power, their opponents announced on television.

The announcement came as fierce fighting raged around the country, between army troops backing the revolt and well-equipped elite police units loyal to Ceausescu. Hundreds of lives were lost in continuing battles described as a bloodbath.

Ion Iliescu, a member of the National Salvation Committee, announced on television that the "dictatorial" family, Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, was captured.

Referring to Ceausescu as a "poison byena," he said the former president, who had ruled since 1965, and his wife, the second-most powerful person in the country under the old regime, would be tried.

Also captured were Emil Bobu, the third most powerful person in the country who assumed command when the Ceausescu were travelling abroad, and Ceausescu's brother, Ilie, formerly a deputy defence minister. Iliescu said.

Romanian radio, which like the

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn announced on Hungarian television that Warsaw Pact foreign ministers would meet Sunday. He did not say where or when the meeting would take place.

Romanian radio said more than 12,000 people had been killed in one town alone since the uprising began there. Like in other Soviet bloc countries further on the road to reform, the protesters sought an end to dictatorial one-party rule.

Among the dead were 7,614 people first detained by pro-Ceausescu units and then executed, said the report.

Bucharest radio reported early Saturday that all political detainees had been released.

In Timisoara Saturday, 800 kilometres west of Bucharest, the entire city seemed to fill the streets in celebration. Crowds with red crosses rushed the wounded to hospitals. Helicopter gunships strafed soldiers and civilians, some of whom had also taken up arms against Ceausescu's forces.

Bursts of heavy machine-guns and automatic weapons fire echoed across the city and taxis with red crosses rushed the wounded to hospitals. Helicopter gunships strafed soldiers and civilians, some of whom had also taken up arms against Ceausescu's forces.

Approximately 54 bodies were piled in a room of the emergency hospital in Bucharest, most of them civilians.

"We have some hundreds

mass graves in forested areas of Timisoara, searching for loved ones killed by troops. U.S. and West German TV showed grisly footage of rows of unearthing bodies, their feet bound together.

The upheaval comes at the close of a historic year in which the hardline leaderships of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria were ousted by massive protests and replaced by pro-democracy reformers.

Despite the fighting in Romania, tens of thousands of jubilant people celebrated in the centre of Bucharest Saturday morning, waving flags with the bated Communist symbol ripped from its centre and chanting "Ceausescu is gone."

But the security forces fighting the country's newly declared leaders were Ceausescu's hated and feared instrument of repression for years. At 700,000, the special police troops outnumber regular army forces by more than 4-to-1.

East bloc news agencies cited unconfirmed reports that Libyan and Syrian mercenaries were helping the Ceausescu loyalists.

Bucharest radio announced shortly after noon (1100 GMT) that "Arab troops" were attacking the building, without providing any detail.

But the Libyan Foreign Ministry Saturday denied the reports in a dispatch by the official news agency JANA.

Military helicopters piloted by pro-Ceausescu forces dropped leaflets in the downtown core, Bucharest Radio said. It cited the leaflet as warning insurgents to

hospital," said Dr. Marius Scarlat.

Dr. Christian Toma, a dentist, accused Ceausescu's security forces, known as scuritate, of blind orgies of bloodshed. "They shoot at the hospital, they destroy blood, they shoot doctors. This is not war, this is atrocity," he told the Associated Press.

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Israeli soldiers detain Palestinians in the occupied West Bank

## Israelis kill 2 in Gaza, shot and wound dozens

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers

Saturday shot dead two Palestinian youths in clashes in Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip Saturday, hospital officials said.

Residents said the youths were killed when soldiers opened fire on masked youths painting uprising slogans on walls in the camp.

The killings raised the death toll in the two-year-old uprising against Israel to 605 Palestinians.

Troops wounded at least 12 Palestinians in protests that raged throughout Rafah after the killing, hospital officials said. In other clashes in the strip, troops shot and wounded six more Palestinians, they said.

Five Palestinians were shot and wounded during clashes with troops in Tulkarm village in the West Bank, hospital officials there said.

In Bethlehem, Israeli paratroopers closed stores and ordered holiday shoppers home Saturday after a clash with masked youths across from the traditional site of the birth of Christ.

Meanwhile, visiting South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu bowed his head in silent prayer at a memorial to slain Palestinians and told Arab reli-

gious leaders and activists that

"we support your struggle for statehood and independence."

Tutu, the first black to head the Anglican Church in South Africa, arrived Friday and is to conduct Christmas Eve masses in Bethlehem and nearby Beit Sahur.

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narrow alleyways of the nearby marketplace, where the youth fled.

Paratroopers and purple-bereted troops from the Givati Brigade ran through the marketplace shouting "Ruhai Al Beit," to hold down shoppers and demanded that local youths use brooms to sweep the streets clean of debris from the burning tyres.

One enraged woman shopper turned to a soldier and said: "You can't close the shop, this is our holiday," but the soldier ordered her home.

Slogans were seen throughout the town calling for increased clashes with troops to mark the holiday.

"Let's escalate against the Zionists on Christmas Day," was spray-painted in black on one stone wall. It was signed by the underground leadership of the uprising.

The underground leadership had called on shopkeepers to stay open until 5 p.m. and not close at noon to mark a Palestinian strike that has been in force since the start of the uprising.

Also Saturday, the Islamic fundamentalist Hama movement cancelled a Christmas Day strike after protests from Palestinian Christians and rescheduled the work stoppage for Dec. 27.

## Nabulsi: No new probe into Petra Bank affair

By P.V. Vivekanand —

Jordan Times Staff Writer

ger order, remains outside the country.

There is no review or fresh investigation into the Petra Bank affair; we have already reached our conclusions," Nabulsi said. "This committee will only help the martial law authorities in technical issues related to the case," the CBJ governor told the Jordan Times in response to a story carried by the newspaper which was told by sources that a "fresh hearing" was being planned on the affair.

The experts and specialists, including representatives of local banks and auditors, will help the martial law authorities in their proceedings with the case," Nabulsi said.

"I expect that no less than 15 civil cases (related to banking) will be filed against Chalabi," he added. "This is separate from the criminal aspects of the case."

Firmly dismissing what Chalabi said he was seeking as "realistic gestures" that would facilitate his return to Jordan to "clear things up" of the affairs of the bank he founded in 1977, Nabulsi said the authorities were determined to press charges against the Iraqi-born banker. "It is up to him to return or not," Nabulsi said. "But we are not going to meet any of his conditions."

Among the "gestures" sought by Chalabi are: a repeal of the charge that he left Jordan through illegal channels and a retraction of an ESC order sequestering property owned by the Chalabi family, pending the final outcome procedures adopted against the banker, who has been named as one of the prime suspects in the case which includes charges of embezzlement, violation of banking laws and foreign exchange regulations and speculation against the Jordanian dinar running into millions.

"We still believe that Chalabi is the most daring swindler of the Petra Bank Management Committee," and the governor and deputy governor of the CBJ as well as the finance minister, Basile Jardaneh — who is head of the ESC — as the "defendants." The case, which is not formally filed, alleges that PIBC was the victim of a "conspiracy" and seeks about \$100 million in damages. However, Chalabi told the Jordan Times that "The case could be stopped any time," implying that the door was open for a compromise deal with the authorities over his return to Jordan.

Chalabi told the Jordan Times in a telephone call he initiated from an undisclosed location that "procedures are in place for a case in a United States court" seeking "damages and relief" against the take-over of Petra International Banking Corporation (PIBC), Washington, D.C. by the CBJ and a new management committee which took control of Petra Bank in August. PIBC is an affiliate of Petra Bank and a majority of its shares are owned by the mother bank.

The case names Chalabi and his brother Talal Chalabi as the

"plaintiffs" and members of the Petra Bank Management Committee.

In the same vein, Nabulsi also challenged Chalabi to make good a threat to file a case against the CBJ and the new management of Petra Bank in a U.S. court.

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However, Nabulsi's comments Saturday indicated that the authorities were in no mood for any compromise. "Let him file his case," said the CBJ governor. "In fact, such a case will help us expose him and press our case in the United States."

Residents looting stores in downtown Panama City before U.S. military police were deployed to restore law and order

## U.S. beefs up Panama forces

PANAMA CITY (R) — The United States sent 2,000 more troops into Panama Saturday to help 23,000 soldiers already there battle against stubborn and growing resistance apparently directed by fugitive General Manuel Noriega.

Despite American hopes that

Panama would be quickly under the control of its new, U.S.-installed government, fighting picked up on the fourth day of the invasion, with a U.S. embassy official saying there was considerable gunfire near the embassy.

Defense Department officials

said there was increased action by

Noriega's paramilitary "Dignity Battalions" who fired small arms

at U.S. troops and continued

looting overnight in defiance of a

curfew. American helicopter gunships were in the air much of the night, officials said.

General Maxwell Thurman,

commander of U.S. forces,

said this morning to the American

newspaper that "we are not

organised and that Noriega was

the "guiding hand" of the anti-

American operation.

There were growing casualties

from the United States' biggest

military operation overseas since

the Vietnam war.

Pentagon officials said 21

American servicemen and two

U.S. dependents had been killed

since the fighting began early

Wednesday. Another 227 were

wounded and 1,000 were missing.

The officials said 139 Noriega

loyalists from the Panama De-

fense Force, the country's regular

army, had been killed, 95 wounded and 1,880 captured.

The two main hospitals in Panama City reported a total of 51 Panamanian civilians killed and 835 wounded, but the toll was believed to be much higher.

Noriega's representative to the United Nations said there had been as many as 7,000 deaths.

Panama City, a capital of one million people, was also facing a growing refugee problem, food shortages and lack of medical supplies for the hard-pressed civilian hospitals.

In a bid to ease the food problems, the military opened the Bridge of the Americas, a key transport route into the city from the countryside where farms are located.

U.S. President George Bush said Thursday that "Operation Just Cause" was "pretty much wrapped up" and General Colin Powell, head of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, had said Wednesday organised opposition had been defeated and troops were mopping up.

But for many Panamanians their words were hard to accept.

On Friday afternoon and early Saturday U.S. troops faced renewed attacks from what Thurman said was a "centrally controlled" opposition.

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# National News

## Badran, Kuwait fund head review links

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday received in his office Bader Muhsini Humeidi, director of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) in the presence of Minister of Planning Awi Al Masri.

Badran and Humeidi reviewed cooperation between the fund and Jordan. Badran paid tribute to the fund for its assistance towards promoting development in the Arab World and Humeidi lauded Jordan's efforts to benefit from the fund's loans in executing important projects.

Humeidi also held a meeting with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al

Taher with whom he discussed cooperation (see story on page 6).

Discussion during the meeting covered the prospect of KFAED employing experts employed by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to help conduct feasibility studies on power projects financed by the fund in the Arab World.

The minister thanked the fund for its contribution towards implementing Jordan's projects, specially those related to energy and mineral exploitation.

The KFAED financed the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Aqaba and other JEA power projects in Jordan.

## Qasem returns

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Saturday returned home after representing Jordan at an Arab-European ministerial conference, which convened in Paris at the initiative of French President Francois Mitterrand.

The conference adopted a number of measures to reorganise Arab-European dialogue and reactivate several cooperation projects such as holding a symposium on Arab-European cultural relations in Jordan.

## Deputies to begin debate on laws, amendments

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament meets Sunday to elect members of its committees in charge of public freedoms, citizens' rights, agricultural affairs, health, environment safety, education, Palestine and the occupied Arab territories as well as rural and badia affairs.

A statement Saturday said that the House members would receive Sunday a total of 57 draft laws or amendments to existing laws from the government to be reviewed by the concerned House committees.

Among these are laws on supply, the Jordan Investment Corporation, the value of added tax, as well as amendments to Land appropriation and ownership in the Zarqa and Ruseifa areas.

The House is expected to take a confidence vote Dec. 30 on the government of Mudar Badran, who presented his programme to Parliament last week.

## Ministry shows how to conserve energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has announced the start of a programme that will demonstrate actual savings in energy costs that participating industries can achieve through energy conservation. Energy audits have indicated that energy consumption could potentially be reduced by 10 per cent to 25 per cent, thus reducing the cost of production and demand for additional power.

In addition to the energy cost savings benefits, energy conservation results in reduction in the global warming effect because of more efficient fuel utilisation and less carbon dioxide emission to the environment.

In cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources is undertaking a project to demonstrate the feasibility

of reducing energy use through the implementation of efficiency and energy conservation programme. The ministry, working with a local engineering firm, will select several local industries interested in energy conservation to participate in the project. Energy-saving equipment will be installed, and results monitored and publicised to both the general public and to appropriate businesses.

The cost of energy saving activities compared with cost savings — higher profits — realised as a result of energy conservation are of particular interest. If energy conservation results in a 10 per cent reduction in the cost of production as projected, the project will demonstrate that conserving energy is a profitable investment for Jordanian businesses. Results of the study will be available in nine months.

## Bloodbath in Romania

(Continued from page 1)

abandon "this dangerous road" and urging them to "stop before it's too late."

The ousted leader had run the country as a personal fiefdom, installing dozens of relatives in key positions of power.

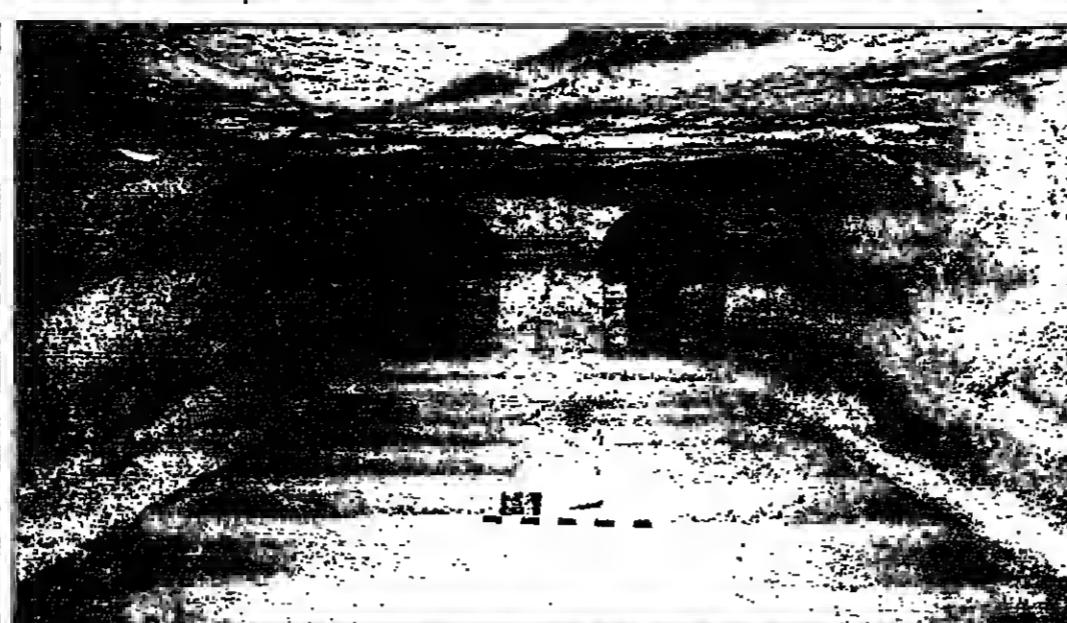
The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug, quoting Romanian Radio, reported an orgy of bloodletting in Sibiu and Brasov by commandos of Ceausescu's feared police force.

"Commandos of the former securitate had captured a hospital in Brasov and were entering homes and flats and shooting at random," said the report, which, like others, could not immediately be confirmed independently.

Romanian radio said the heaviest fighting outside the capital occurred in Brasov, Romania's second-largest city. It appealed urgently for reinforcements to help the army there.

After his capture by the army, the head of state security, Iulian Vlad, went on Bucharest radio to call for unity and announced that the Interior Ministry had rid itself of "elements loyal to the Ceausescu clan." He also called on the security troops to join the uprising.

Bucharest radio reported that army units backing the revolt against Ceausescu had succeeded in arresting Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu and two of his deputies.



A burial chamber unearthed by excavators at Yasileh in northern Jordan (Petra photo)

## Byzantine ruins unearthed

IRBID (J.T.) — Archaeological excavations conducted by the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology of Yarmouk University, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, at Yasileh in northern Jordan have revealed burial chambers, store rooms and water cisterns dating back to the Byzantine era, according to Dr. Zeidoun Al Muheisen of the institute.

Muheisen said in a lecture Saturday that at least 30 burial chambers were unearthed in the latest excavation season along with courtyards and coins as well as the remains of a church.

Coins found in the soil and chambers suggest a continuous period of civilisation under the Romans and Byzantines, followed by the Islamic period. He said important hydraulic installations for collecting run off waters from the wadis were also located at the site. He added that a spring located one kilometre to the north of the Yasileh site was used for water supply in the two periods. Muheisen said the excavation was launched primarily to determine the exact location of the ancient city where Yasileh now stands.

## ACC meeting designed to bolster trade

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz has said that a two-day meeting in Baghdad of the ministers of economy, trade and supply in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries is designed to bolster ACC activities and discuss executive measures related to the implementation of the cooperation agreement, dealing with regulation of trade and increasing the size of trade among ACC countries.

"The meeting will bolster executive methods related to increasing the size of trade exchange... encourage exports and discuss means to organise imports of strategic commodities so as to boost the balance of payment and strengthen the economy," Fariz added.

During their meeting, which began Saturday, the ACC ministers will discuss a report prepared by economic experts in the ACC countries. The report includes recommendations on means to put into effect articles related to trade included in an economic cooperation agreement the ACC leaders had signed in San'a, North Yemen.

Attending the Baghdad meeting were ACC Assistant Secretary-General Hisham Hassan Tawfiq and the ambassadors of Jordan, Egypt, and North Yemen in Baghdad.

According to the study, 731 cases of beggars in Jordan were

## Youth forum opens week-long meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman-based Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Saturday opened a week-long meeting by representatives of youths from the four-member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) to discuss issues of concern to Arab youth in general and those of the ACC states in particular.

Minister of Culture Khaled Karaki, addressing the opening session held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman, urged the gathering to take decisions aimed at promoting contacts among youth of the Arab World and help fulfil AYF goals.

The meeting was also addressed by Abdullah Hijazi, chairman of a committee that prepared for the meeting, and Omar Ali Babekr, member of the forum. Both emphasised the need to promote youth's participation in

various social and economic affairs.

Besides their meetings, the participants will hear lectures and tour several places of interest and youth centres in Jordan. They will also take part in a seminar that will review working papers on the role of the Arab youth in development.

AYF was established in June 1988 with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as its chairman.

Prince Hassan told the opening meeting that the AYF came into being in response to the desires of various youth sectors in Jordan including people studying at Jordanian universities and with the purpose of expanding the framework of dialogue and discussing national issues and Arab problems.

He said that the Royal Falcons has received invitations to take part in air shows to be held in Spain and five other European nations.

## Study sheds light on begging, homelessness

AMMAN (Petra) — A study prepared by the Ministry of Social Development, in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of West Germany, described begging and homelessness in Jordan as a chronic problem that should be dealt with at the national level.

Details of the study were discussed at a general meeting organised Saturday by the Ministry of Social Development. Ministry officials said the study was conducted with a view to discovering the causes of the two problems and to come up with proposals and recommendations for solutions.

The study recommended protective measures to be taken by the ministry to stem any increases in the number of homeless people and beggars. The study said the problem had serious implications for society.

The study called for a re-examination of Jordan's child care programmes with a view to introducing measures that would eliminate homelessness and beggars.

## Thousands sit for Tawjihi today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education announced Saturday that it has finalised preparations for the first session of the general secondary certificate (Tawjihi) examinations session, which is due to begin Sunday. It said that a total of 66,502 students will take the examination this year, up from nearly 60,000 in the last scholastic year, sitting for seven different streams.

He said that evaluation of answer papers would begin on the following day of each subject.

The results normally appear soon after the re-opening of

schools after the scholastic year's winter holiday which began Saturday and will run until Jan. 11, 1990.

The same Tawjihi students will be required to sit for another examination session by June of the coming year, a procedure followed by the ministry over the past years. But, according to a recent ministry statement, Tawjihi students will take only an end-of-the-year examination in 1992-1993 scholastic year and the following year.

## GUVS endorses 1990 plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Saturday endorsed a plan of action for 1990 aimed at providing assistance to charitable and voluntary societies and maintaining programmes for the handicapped and needy, according to GUVS Secretary-General Mohammad Ali Wardam.

In a statement made after a general GUVS meeting where the plan was endorsed, Wardam said the main targets for 1990 include the Al Amal Centre for the severely handicapped at Yajouz, seven rehabilitation centres in different areas for handicapped children, mother and child care centres, and vocational training centres.

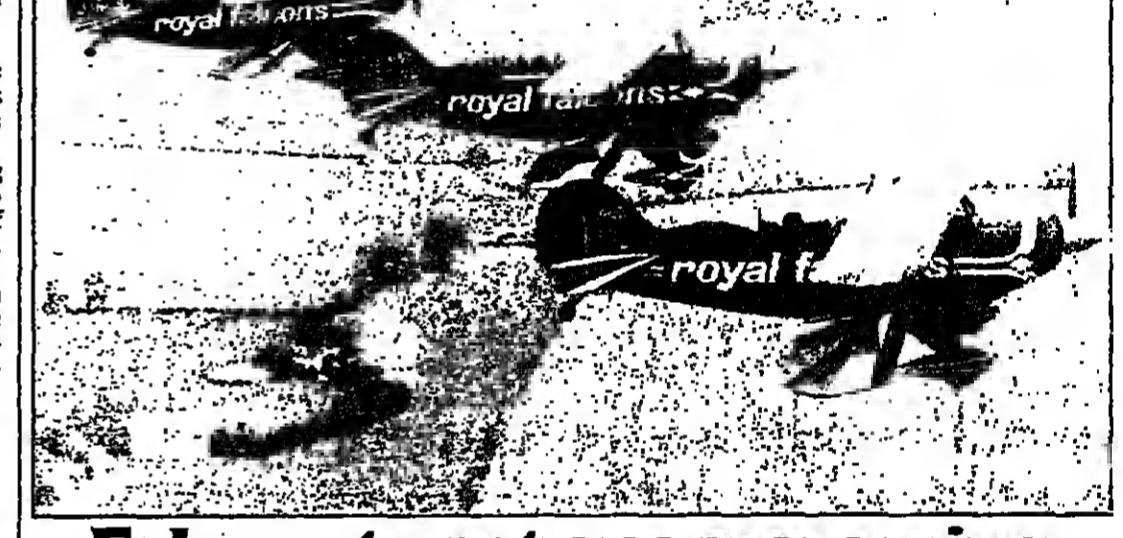
Work is underway at the Al Amal Home, a project expected to give care and rehabilitation services to 150 children aged between six and 20. Her Majesty Queen Noor laid the foundation stone for the centre at Yajouz last August. According to GUVS officials it is being set up on an eight dunum plot that would house facilities for the handicapped with special experts recruited by GUVS, he said.

Over the past two years, GUVS, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provided assistance totalling JD 100,000 for various charitable and voluntary societies in the Kingdom, Wardam said. In the coming year, GUVS will maintain such assistance and will offer loans to finance income-generating projects for needy families, especially in the rural areas of Jordan. GUVS will join hands with a number of regional and international organisations in providing loans to Jordanian citizens carrying out development projects, Wardam said.

He said that GUVS would provide assistance to handicapped persons by providing them with special vocational training courses to enable them to become self-supporting and will also help the handicapped find employment.

GUVS, established in 1958, incorporates over 450 voluntary and charitable societies in all parts of the Kingdom involving some 45,000 voluntary workers.

Wardam did not disclose the amounts of money required for the 1990 projects but GUVS President Abdullah Al Khairi last August disclosed that nearly JD 1.4 million were needed annually. He said that more than 150,000 Jordanians benefit directly or indirectly from GUVS projects annually, including 500 students who obtain interest-free loans for their education.



## Falcons to get one more wing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Falcons, the national aerobatics team, will soon add at least one more plane to its fleet and will employ additional training staff and pilots from Royal Jordanian (RJ), Royal Falcons club acting Director Nidal Samaan announced Saturday.

He said the club now has eight

planes, four of which are used in air shows and the rest of training as well as air shows.

Samaan said that his fleet took part in several air shows and that no less than 15 million people watched their aerobatic performances. The Royal Falcons, which was established in 1976 upon directives of His Majesty King Hussein, took part in shows

**NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF**

**TRIBES VISIT BADRAN:** A delegation representing the tribes of Hawaith and Naimat visited Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday. The delegation congratulated Badran for forming the cabinet and expressed pride in His Majesty King Hussein's leadership. The prime minister expressed his gratitude to the delegation members and asked them to convey his good wishes to the sons of their tribes. (Petra)

**COMMITTEE ON YARMOUK CLASHES:** The University of Yarmouk Council has decided to form a committee from its members to complete investigations into the student clashes, which took place at the university recently. The council also entrusted the committee with providing the council with a report and recommendations as soon as possible. (J.T.)

**GERMAN ART EXHIBITION:** An art exhibition entitled the Blue Rider was opened Saturday at Yarmouk University. The exhibition, organised by the university in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, includes 36 paintings depicting social life in West Germany. (J.T.)

**WHAT'S GOING ON**

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasil Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ The youth art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Arij Al Hammad and Ibrahim Nabulsi at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition on public education at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) youth art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

**FILM**

★ A Soviet film entitled "The Puppet" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

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## Jordan Times

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## Sacrifice is worth the prize

THE FALL of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his tyrannical system Friday completes the circle of reformation in Eastern Europe albeit at a high price. Until his downfall, the bets were in favour of him holding on to power even if that entailed the sacrifice of thousands of his people. In this context and sense the end of Ceausescu era is an added proof that the odds in contemporary days are solidly in favour of democracy and against the continuation of tyranny. The entire continent of Europe can now rejoice in overthrowing the last vestiges of totalitarian rule within its borders. Likewise the forces of freedom and democracy worldwide can take comfort from the fact that the tide of democratisation is proceeding forward at full speed and that the thirst for it across many other lands can never be quenched until reforms reach them as well.

It is ironic that the leadership in Romania could not see the tide of democracy coming their way and prepare themselves for it as it has happened in other Warsaw Pact countries. The irony is even greater when it comes to other parts of the world where despite repeated warnings about the incoming tidal wave of democracy some governments still cling to archaic justification for keeping their peoples under siege and chained to conditions bordering on slavery. The puzzling question is when will governments that continue to practise totalitarianism heed the call for democratisation and reforms? Must the bloody experience of Romania be repeated over and over again before the message of democracy soaks in the minds and hearts of officialdom that belong to bygone days? Must blood be always spilt before corrections and reformations are introduced? The Romanian people paid dearly with their blood and offered a fine and honourable example of the price that people deprived of freedom are willing to sustain to attain their legitimate aspirations. Mankind all over the world owes them much gratitude and appreciation for without their magnificent triumph the cause of freedom would have remained incomplete.

The Jordanian people who are blessed with a fine example of functioning democracy take special pride to salute the Romanian people on their victory over tyranny. At the same time Jordan takes time on this occasion of forward marching democracy everywhere in the world to highlight the fact that it has given its continuing process of democratisation additional boosts, on every opportunity, culminating in a phenomenon of mushrooming and snowballing democracy that has attained new heights through harmonious and rational methods characterised by responsibility and common sense. Seen against this backdrop, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has emerged as a principle locomotive for positive change and reformation in the Middle East region and as a vanguard of constructive evolutionary transformation. The people with a good taste of freedom are in the best position to appreciate the hard won freedoms by other peoples and that is what brings Jordanians and Romanians that much closer together.

### ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday tackled an Euro Arab meeting held in Paris over the past two days and said that the participants discussed the Palestine question, and the situations in the Gulf and Lebanon among other topics. The paper noted that the meeting displayed beyond any doubt that the Europeans want to prove that they constitute a power that should be reckoned with by Moscow and Washington and that they are determined to conduct their business with regards to regional issues without external influence. Israel's claim that the Palestine problem is being shelved by the Europeans, whose bands are now full in the light of developments in Eastern Europe, is therefore baseless, said the paper. It noted that the meeting in Paris proved also that the Europeans are concerned with holding an international conference on the Middle East so as to ensure lasting peace in the area. The Europeans have declared that they intend to exercise pressure on the United States which holds the cards in the Middle East issue, to be more realistic and help the Palestinian people regain their right to independence, the paper added. In addition, the European and Arab delegates turned their attention to economic and technological cooperation; and this is a clear sign that Europe intends to maintain its close ties with the Arab side, the paper pointed out. It said that the meeting can be described as having achieved a good degree of success and served as a constructive move to cement Euro-Arab relations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily launches a severe attack on the toppled Communist leader of Romania for his dictatorial rule over the past two decades. Tareq Masarweh says that Nicolae Ceausescu has fallen under the wrath and the blows of the people, despite United States support for the dictator who it recognised as a hero because he confronted Moscow's policies in the Communist World. The writer reminds his readers that Ceausescu was serving the American — Zionist cause by allowing Romanian Jews to emigrate to Israel in return for \$20,000 each. Ceausescu's Romania also received unlimited amounts of loans and assistance from the West; and the West German tourists thronged Romania's cities and resorts as a show of gratitude for Ceausescu and his policies against Moscow and in favour of Israel, the writer points out. He says the ousted dictator had ruled his country with an iron fist, filling government posts with his relatives and those of his wife who helped to spread the rule of terrorism in Romania. The writer says that as the people of Romania are engaged in liberating their country, the United States is involved in a new war of colonialism against a small nation, Panama, whose leader General Noriega had served the interest of the United States for so long. The writer says that the United States has no democracy when it comes to dealing with other nations; and it prefers the language of tanks and narcotics warfare in its dealings with Panama and other small nations in Latin America.

## Sunday Economic Pulse

### Income, consumption taxes at the expense of imports duty

FOR quite a long time, the Treasury was dependent on customs duty on imports as its main source of domestic revenue. The justifications for such a state of affairs were: Simplicity of collection at border points, very high proceeds, and protection of local industry.

However, the new government programme submitted last week to Parliament for a vote of confidence admitted that customs duty on imports, as an indirect tax, will retreat substantially in favour of direct taxes such as income tax and other newly introduced consumption tax.

This strategic shift in the fiscal policy is worth some analysis. A hasty observer may think that it is not more than an arbitrary decision, made by the present minister of finance, that would be offset in the future by another arbitrary decision in the opposite direction.

In this respect it is worthwhile to look into the situation in other advanced countries to read the trend. Treasuries in industrialised and newly industrialised countries depend heavily on one main direct tax, income tax. People have to set aside a portion of their current income, be it salary, profit, interest of rent, to finance the government that provides external and internal security, justice, organisation and other services and functions of governments.

Income tax of course is not desired by those who pay it, simply because it is seen and felt, and is represented by a cash transfer to a tax man who does not give in return any service directly related to the amount paid. However, it is, or at least it could be, a just and fair tax, because it is proportional to the ability to pay. It allows acceleration with higher income, and it gives the citizen the feeling of a taxpayer who has the right to have the government accountable.

On the other hand, the high customs duty and the exaggerated protection of domestic products are guaranteed prescriptions for consumer exploitation, inefficiency, high cost of production, loss of productivity, and lack of competitiveness in the export markets. It is not a coincidence that most Jordanian exports are those which do not benefit from customs protection, such as phosphates, potash, fertilisers, fruits, vegetables and other foodstuffs.

We should also take note of the radical change in prevailing circumstances. The dependency on customs duty may be acceptable and natural in a country that depends heavily or solely on importation. In that case it is virtually a consumption tax. But, when dependency on imports is reduced to a bare minimum, the Treasury's dependency on customs duty has to be reduced too. It

is not a coincidence that the proceeds of customs duty in 1989 dropped by 15 per cent in terms of current Jordan dinars, which means a sharp decline of over 40 per cent in real terms measured by purchasing power. The Treasury has no option under the circumstances but to look for other alternatives, because it is striving, not only to maintain the level of its revenue, but also to

Therefore, the tax on consumption, which is effectively a customs duty, as far as imports are concerned, and an excise duty as far as local production is concerned, was necessary step, duly justified financially and economically, and a right response to the new emerging circumstances.

Finally, one has to point out the fact that high walls of protection for local production is one of the major obstacles for Arab and regional cooperation and economic integration, which is an inevitable objective for survival and prosperity. If we are serious about regional Arab cooperation, as a step towards one form or another of an Arab integration, we have to gradually scale down customs duty to give way for a unified tax on income, and more taxes on consumption, not only in Jordan but also in every other Arab country that admits to be a part of a longer community.

## Why the U.S. failed to respond to Arafat

By John Law

THE events in Algiers and Geneva one year ago gave the United States an unprecedented opportunity to use its influence to bring an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. So how well did the administration take advantage of it? On a grading scale of one to ten, it would be generous to award it with a "one."

To see why, just look again at the developments that took place last November and December, which the U.S. has in the meantime failed to exploit. First the proclamation by Palestinians of a state that encompasses as its territory the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza, no more and no less. In making this proclamation the Palestinians were telling Israel — and the U.S. as well — that in the interests of a final settlement they were ready to accept only 22 per cent of Palestine for their homeland, allowing Israel to keep the other 78 per cent. Although an offer to accept a state within such boundaries had already been a *de facto* PLO policy for many years, what made the situation different this time was that the Palestine National Council voted to make this policy official. Considering that Palestinians formed more than 90 per cent of Palestine's population at the time of Balfour Declaration and still outnumbered Israelis by more than two to one (while owning 93 per cent of the land) when Israel was established in 1948, this was an enormous compromise for them to offer.

The Israelis, of course, rejected it out of hand, because aside from Likud's refusal to give up "one square inch" of occupied territory, even the supposedly more conciliatory Labour Party does not envisage allowing the Palestinians to have *all* of the West Bank — a substantial portion of it must be held for "security" reasons they argue, and East Jerusalem is "non-negotiable."

So what was the U.S. reaction?

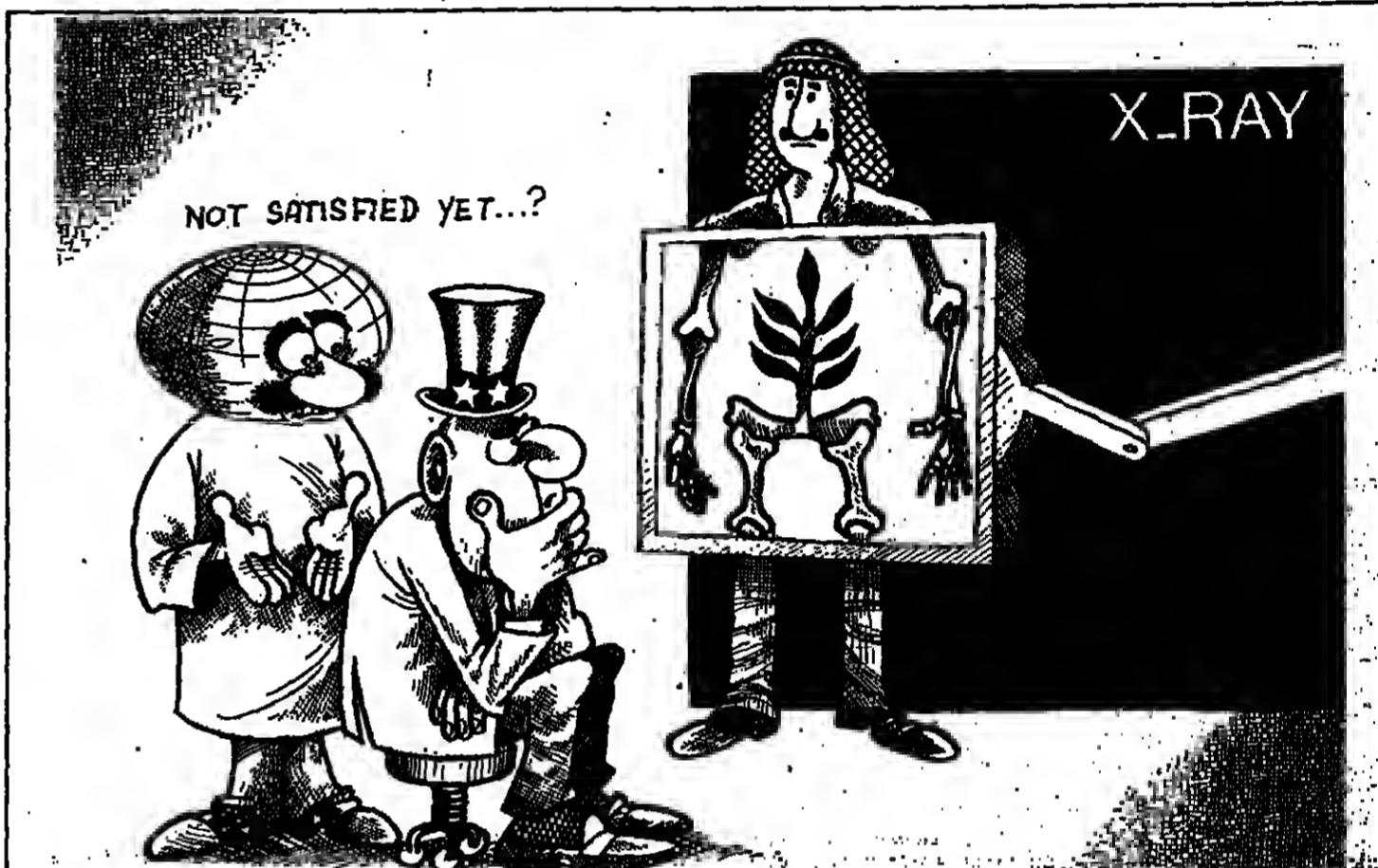
It is unfortunate, but not surprising, that the administration did not give the Palestinians any credit for their willingness to give up more than three quarters of their homeland. The idea that it is the Palestinians who have been the aggressors and the Israelis the victims has been so firmly embedded in the American psyche, through years of Israeli myth-making, that more often than not: the American "man in the street" will tell you something like: "Why should the Palestinians get anything? Let them go live somewhere else. Haven't they been attacking Israel long enough?"

On the other hand, many (but not all) foreign affairs experts in the administration know better than this, as do a few of the top officials. At the same time, however, they are convinced in the American tradition that it is not "good politics" to heap public praise on the Palestinians for anything, and it is even worse politics to suggest that they should be allowed to have an independent state of their own.

The result: U.S. policy, one year later, still favours Palestinian "local autonomy" in the West Bank and Gaza, but not statehood. There has never been a hint that this policy will change.

The gamble that failed

Second, one year ago Yasser Arafat said the "magic words" — recognising the "existence" of Israel, accepting U.N. Resolution 242 and renouncing "terrorism" — that for 14 years the U.S. had been insisting must be spoken as a condition for it to "recognise or negotiate with" the PLO. Arafat had always been particularly reluctant to say the words of recognition, on the grounds that Israel had already gone on record as being unwilling to recognise the PLO even if the PLO decided to recognise Israel. Why, Arafat reasoned, should he play his biggest cards just for the sake of getting recognised by the U.S.,



lead the way to establishing a five-year period of "local autonomy" to be followed by discussions of "final status" for the territories. The State Department greeted the proposal with considerable warmth, and ever since has been working on ways to bring it to fruition.

Aside from the fact that Shamir's repeated affirmations that "final status" could never mean Palestinian statehood should have made the proposal a non-starter, it has been bogged down from the outset over the question of which Palestinians should enter negotiations to discuss how to hold elections which would produce Palestinians who would later be able to enter new negotiations to determine whether a basis for negotiations with Israel over a final settlement exists or not. No kidding! But what has prevented this "plan" from getting past even the first step is Israel's determination not to allow any PLO official or anyone appointed by the PLO to be a member of the Palestinian team that would negotiate the modality of the proposed elections.

Let Rome burn

The U.S., although grumbling occasionally over some of Shamir's

### LETTERS

#### Oversight

To the Editor:

THE Jordan Times of Dec. 18, 1989 published on page 3 an article about the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped bazaar.

Amongst all the embassies, you mentioned Sweden, which did not participate. You, however, failed to mention the Scandinavian Ladies of Amman (SLA). The SLA's stand produced the largest revenue that day.

The SLA represents the following nationalities:

Denmark  
Finland  
Iceland  
Norway

Sweden

Most items sold were prepared or contributed by members of the Scandinavian Ladies of Amman. Unlike other participants of the bazaar, who had official embassy backing.

We trust you will correct this oversight and give credit where credit is due.

Mrs. Connie Suheimat

Mrs. Leena Rawashdeh

Mrs. Eva Greve

The Bazaar Co-ordinators  
The Scandinavian Ladies of Amman

### Gifts & Tableware From:

Albany Fine China

Aynsley China

Baccarat

Coalport China

D. Porthault

De Porceleyne Fles

Goebel

Herrend

Isle of Wight Glass

Kaiser Porzellan

Lladro

Noblesse Crystal

Raynaud Limoges

Royal Copenhagen

Royal Worcester

Saint Hilaire Silver

Spode

Val Saint Lambert

Waterford Crystal

Wedgwood

### Ercuis Silver

and the famous

neuhaus

Belgian Chocolate

Special Prices  
for Xmas

FaSha

Jabal Luweibdeh Hawooz Circle Tel. 639498  
Amman



## The tale of two blue chips

By Chet Carrier  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One blue-chip stock multiplied your money to nearly 10 times its former value. Another turned your dollar into less than a dime.

That, in microcosm, was the story of the 1980's on Wall Street — a decade in which many fortunes were made, and more than a few were lost, in a roaring bull market.

To pick the biggest winner among the 30 stocks that now make up the Dow Jones industrial average, you had to ignore a gathering storm over the tobacco industry.

The company in question was Philip Morris, whose shares increased almost 850 per cent in value from the beginning of the '80s through mid-December, according to calculations by William Lefevre at the investment firm of Avest Incorporated. Adjusted for splits, Philip Morris stock soared from \$4.50 to \$40-plus.

Philip Morris, widely known as the producer of Marlboro and several other cigarette brands, began a diversification programme many years ago with Miller Brewing Company.

In the '80s it claimed the status of world's largest manufacturer of consumer products with the acquisitions of General Foods and Kraft Inc., gaining such familiar product lines as Maxwell House coffee and Post cereals.

Meanwhile, it strengthened its hold as the dominant force in the tobacco industry.

### Biggest loser

At the other end of the standings, Navistar International was the biggest loser among the Dow 30, falling from \$39.12 at the start of the '80s to less than \$4 recently.

Navistar, known a decade ago as International Harvester, left the farm- and construction-machinery businesses to concentrate on making trucks and diesel-powered equipment. It suffered through a seven-year spell of losses before recently returning to profitability.

Among the winners, Philip Morris wasn't alone in benefiting from the ravenous consumer appetites of the '80s. Close behind it in the Dow

performance ranking stood McDonald's Corporation, up nearly 700 per cent; Coca-Cola, up nearly 600 per cent, and Merck, the health care giant, up more than 500 per cent.

Like Navistar, Bethlehem Steel, which was down more than 20 per cent, and International Business Machines (IBM), up less than 50 per cent, reflected the many problems of the economy's industrial sector.

What did all this mean for a diversified portfolio of stocks? Once the big winners and losers are balanced out, the Dow Jones industrial average has more than tripled. "All in all, not a bad 10 years," Lefevre observed.

In the past week, the average suffered something of a setback, beset by fears that softening real estate markets might increase the odds of a recession in 1990. It closed Friday at 2,711.39, down 28.16 from the week before.

The New York stock exchange composite index dropped 1.50 to 191.95; the Nasdaq composite index for the over-the-counter market rose .73 to 444.57, and the American stock exchange market value index was down 1.50 at 191.95.

Volume on the big board averaged 168.70 million shares a day, against 185.54 million the week before.

Just how the experience of the '80s might translate into good decisions for the '90s remains to be seen.

Some say the new decade, like the old one, may begin with a recession, especially since the great prosperity of the past several years has left a lot of debt to be paid.

Others contend that the pessimists and the skeptics, who missed many an opportunity in the '80s, may just wind up repeating the same mistake.

Whatever happens, however, people in the stocks and bonds business say the story of the '80s' big winners and losers provides a dramatic demonstration of the virtues of a diversified investment programme.

Anyone who owned \$10,000 each of the best and worst blue chips through the '80s would have an \$80,000-plus Philip Morris profit as consolation, and then some, for a \$9000 Navistar loss.

## Two industries to benefit from Kuwait fund loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two Jordanian companies are to receive a total of eight million Kuwaiti dinars as loans from the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development to help finance their expansion projects under an agreement signed at the Ministry of Planning here Saturday.

One of the beneficiaries is the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), which will get 3.25 million Kuwaiti dinars that will be used to finance the transfer of installation of two gas-powered turbines at the Rishieh gas fields near the Iraqi border. The turbines, which are located south of Amman, will be driven by gas extracted from the fields instead of transporting the gas to the location.

The loan will also be used to help JEA to purchase and install equipment needed for the operation and its transformer stations as well as other technical and power distribution plant.

The other beneficiary is the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), which will receive a total 4.75 million Kuwaiti dinars. The loan will help JPMC to mine and process phosphate-based fertilisers which are produced at the fertiliser plant in Aqaba and to purchase spare parts for the JPMC mines and fertiliser plant.

Over the past four months the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development has been conducting feasibility studies on the two projects, which were later endorsed by the fund's board.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Planning Avni Al Masri and the fund's director-general, Bader Masri.

## Biggest bankruptcy case in history ends

### Hunt relinquishes estate

DALLAS (AP) — Ex-billionaire William Herbert Hunt has relinquished his estate, bringing to a conclusion one of the biggest personal bankruptcies in history.

Herbert and his brother, Nelson Bunker Hunt, were once two of the richest men of the world, with a net worth of more than \$3 billion. On Thursday, a week after the bankruptcy case ended, Herbert relinquished his estate to a liquidating trustee.

Hunt's financial problems began in 1980 when he and his brother lost \$1.5 billion speculating in the silver futures markets. The silver losses were compounded by falling real estate prices and the collapse of the oil market.

The brothers filed for bankruptcy protection in September 1988, shortly after a New York jury found they had conspired to

corner the silver market.

On June 14, U.S. bankruptcy Judge Harold Abramson granted the brothers' request that 601 silver claims be dismissed from the bankruptcy proceedings.

However, the decision left intact almost 600 claims amounting to about \$360 million stemming from the brothers' silver speculation. Included in that is a reduced \$134.6-million judgment in favour of Minepac S.A. of Peru.

On Thursday U.S. bankruptcy Judge Harold Abramson signed the order that will transfer the fallen oilman's estate to a liquidating trust within 10 days.

Hunt's \$169 million estate will be liquidated to pay creditors over the next six years, absorbing him of nearly \$1 billion in debts.

Seventy per cent of Herbert's holdings will go to the U.S. federal tax agency, and the other 30 per cent will be divided among the remaining creditors, including Manufacturers Hanover and Muncie S.A.

Hugh Ray, an attorney for Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, said it was "miraculous" to have two such sizable bankruptcy cases resolved in 15 months.

Under the plan confirmed Thursday, Herbert will be stripped of his assets, which are concentrated heavily in depressed Texas and Arizona real estate.

Hunt will lose his \$400,000 salary, but he will keep his Cadillac car, \$1.2 million Dallas mansion, personal effects totaling \$50,000 and a 50 per cent interest in non-producing oil and gas properties.

### Tin council settles wrangle over debts

LONDON (R) — The International Tin Council (ITC) said Friday it had approved a near \$300 million settlement with creditors, ending four years of legal wrangling since it collapsed leaving huge debts.

The 22-nation council had run a buffer stock to stabilise prices, buying up surplus tin at a floor price well above the value it would otherwise have commanded.

Tin was being held around an artificially high level of \$3,100 (\$13,122) a tonne in London when the pact's buffer stock manager pulled the plug on the market.

Discussions over the out-of-court settlement have dragged on for months.

The breakthrough came when one remaining creditor — Malaysian Trader Manulai Commodities — agreed to accept. The deal was conditional on all primary creditors being party to it.

Over the past four years creditors pursued legal action against the ITC in one of the biggest cases of commercial default. But they met with little success.

Brokers and banks sought redress in the courts, but British courts ruled the ITC was immune from legal action.

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### Poland signs IMF letter of intent

WARSAW (AP) — Poland's top finance officials signed an International Monetary Fund (IMF) letter of intent Saturday, pledging to make far-reaching and painful economic reforms in return for large amounts of Western aid, the state news agency reported.

Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz and the chairman of the National Bank of Poland, Wladyslaw Baka, initialed the letter, which will be forwarded to the IMF in Washington, D.C.

Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and his council of ministers met through the night Friday, reviewing the stringent plan under which Poland vows to choke off 900 per cent inflation, cut budget deficits and weather unemployment and poverty.

The plan, negotiated since Mazowiecki formed the non-Communist-led government in September, is tied to the most extensive economic reform legislation ever attempted in the East Bloc. Introduced in parliament a week ago, the programme would overhaul the centralised state-run economy and replace it with a market-oriented system.

The IMF agreement will certify to Western leaders that Poland is making serious efforts to put its economy in order.

## Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Dec. 16, '89 and ending Wednesday Dec. 20, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company Number of shares Volume of trade Opening price Closing price Par value

### Banking and financial institutions

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Industrial Development Bank	3200	52480	1.650	1.640	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	1200	2982	2.460	2.530	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2150	2951	1.370	1.370	1.000
Housing Bank	36630	76191	2.080	2.100	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Cairo Armenian Bank	981	13739	14.000	14.000	5.000
Bank of Jordan	2270	474545	209.500	210.000	10.000
Arab Bank	12606	31776	2.520	2.520	1.000
Jordan National Bank	19750	65286	3.330	3.260	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Financial Investments	60011	118631	1.980	1.930	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	15600	39394	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Beit Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	3666	3391	0.920	0.920	1.000

### Insurance and reinsurance

Middle East Insurance	110,000	199,100	1.890	1.890	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	11603	20896	1.800	1.780	1.000
Jordan Insurance	1890	45475	2.500	2.550	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1500	1950	1.300	1.300	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	2670	3898	1.420	1.460	1.000
Arab Unica International Insurance	3684	5203	1.430	1.450	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	846	1396	1.650	1.650	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	100	162	1.620	1.620	1.000
General Arabic Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	1694	2897	1.700	1.700	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000

### Services and industries

General Investments	250	382	1.520	1.590	1.000
Imara for Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	4341	4501	1.030	1.040	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	760912	625080	0.760	0.850	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	1242463	651678</td			

## Liverpool, United draw

LONDON (R) — Manchester United drew 0-0 at Liverpool on Saturday to pick up their first point in four matches and prevent their opponents from going top of the English soccer first division.

United put on a strong performance despite poor finishing to take some of the pressure off troubled manager Alex Ferguson, whose job has recently looked increasingly in jeopardy.

The visitors, who have lost only twice at Anfield in the past 10 seasons, dominated for most of the first half against a tired-looking Liverpool team who needed victory to go one point ahead of champions and leaders Arsenal.

The draw meant Liverpool stay second, a point behind Arsenal who play in the full league programme on Tuesday.

United, languishing six points from bottom before the match, should have taken the lead in the 14th minute when Clayton Black-

more found Brian McClair in space, but the striker, who has not scored for two months, hit high over the bar.

In the 22nd minute, Welsh international striker Mark Hughes, who posed constant problems for Liverpool's defence, found space, only to be thwarted by goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Grobbelaar saved from Hughes again 10 minutes later, while McClair again failed to find the net on the stroke of halftime when he headed the ball wide from Danny Wallace's corner.

Liverpool — without England striker John Barnes due to a hamstring injury — lacked inspiration up from despite England forward Peter Beardsley providing some subtle touches.

They suffered further when captain Alan Hansen was replaced at halftime suffering from concussion.

### GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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#### RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

**NORTH**  
♦ K 8 7 6 2  
V K 4  
A 6 3  
A K J  
♦ A K J  
**WEST**  
♦ 5 4  
V J 10 9 7 5 3  
0 Void  
♦ 9 7 6 5 2 4 Q 8 4  
**SOUTH**  
♦ A Q J 10 9 3  
V A Q  
0 J 5 4  
♦ 10 3.  
The bidding:  
East: South: West: North:  
3 0 3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦  
Pass 4 ♦ Pass 5 ♦  
5 ♦ Pass 6 ♦  
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♦  
Cards derive their power from two sources—rank and location. Thus, a king in front of the ace might be worthless, whereas a well-placed jack could be pure gold. This illustrates the principle.

South had a minimum three-spade overall of the opposing preempt, so partner's cue-bid of the enemy suit—an obvious slam try—

elicited no immediate enthusiasm. But when North persisted with a second cue-bid, South dutifully showed his ace of hearts and North settled in a small slam.

West led the jack of hearts, and declarer realized the only problem was to avoid losing two diamond tricks. He spouted the obvious—a club finesse. Declarer won the ace of hearts, drew two rounds of trumps and led a club to the jack. East won, and declarer still had to concede a diamond trick for down one.

What declarer failed to take into account was the positional strength of the jack of diamonds. East's preempt and West's failure to lead a diamond should have made it obvious that the former had started with all seven of the missing diamonds. Therefore, an endplay was bound to succeed.

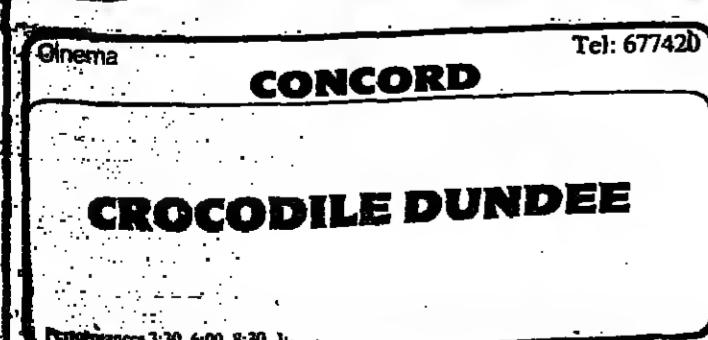
After drawing trumps, declarer should eliminate clubs with a ruff and then cash the king of hearts. Now a low diamond away from the ace secures the contract. East must go up with one of his high honors, but he then has no way to a safe exit. A heart yields a ruff-sluff, and a diamond is into the combined tenace—declarer simply inserts the jack if East returns a low diamond.

### THE Daily Crossword

by Martha J. De Witt



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### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1989  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** A good day to contemplate planning various outlets of a broad and comprehensive nature as you relax later at home with loved ones and relatives in a friendly atmosphere.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A trip to couple of friends' houses could be good for you. You will be happy by quietly showing romantic affection for your mate.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Be careful of people in your home who are likely to cause a disturbance. Disclose your vocation aims with your attachment now.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) A communication from a distance will bring an inspiration to your family. A day when you will be fulfilled in your romantic aspirations.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Welcome a couple from afar into your home. A big business man could help you with your finances in a way to increase your assets.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Starting events with attachment will bring opportunity for more romantic pleasure. A younger outside ally will give you a brilliant business idea.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Get ready to receive some extraordinary persons into your home. A woman with background varied from yours will bring you social pleasures.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October

22) Your attachment will now do something delightful to please you. Do everything possible to effect economies at home.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A jaunt with your attachment to some outside companions will be excellent now. A condition from the past will bring you long-range benefits at home.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Take family members out now to inexpensive social recreations. Costs should be kept at a minimum in fixing up the place with your loved one.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19) You can please your attachment by showing more romantic fervor. Invite couple who lives a short distance away into your home.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 to February 19) Dramatic situations with unusual friends should now be taken in stride. Try to work out financial affairs better with your attachment.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Entertaining at home should be done quickly and privately. Put more emotionalism into your relationship with your loved one.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child were born today he or she will require more rest than other children early in life. This could be a very artistic nature and the education should be slanted along those lines. Some interest in sports develops later on and a large interest in health related matters will evidence itself in the late teens.

## Maradona stokes World Cup controversy

"The World Cup draw had been pre-determined," Maradona alleged, noting that the Soviet Union, Romania and Cameroon were drawn into the group headed by Argentina, in what promised to be one of the toughest first-round sections.

Host Italy was paired with Austria, the United States and Czechoslovakia in a lucky draw that seemed to assure the hosts of advancing to the second round.

Six seeded teams were named in advance, while the other 18 teams were distributed among the groups in a public drawing.

"If I must apologise for my remarks, I will apologise. But I am not going to recant anything. I said what many others had written and said previously," Maradona proclaimed in Cagliari on Thursday.

International Federation (FIFA) which supervised the World Cup draw, said Maradona may be banned from the next year's competition as a result of his "malicious accusations."

"He's stupid or malicious," Blatter was quoted as saying by the Italian news agency ANSA. Other FIFA officials appealed for calm.

Maradona, whose remarks are often amplified by the media, said he could not believe that his appearance in the World Cup may be at risk.

"If I must apologise for my remarks, I will apologise. But I am not going to recant anything. I said what many others had written and said previously," Maradona proclaimed in Cagliari on Thursday.

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its best wishes for a

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A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1990.

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CHRISTMAS DAY  
Christmas buffet featuring  
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delights. Father Christmas will be along  
presents for the children.  
Entertainment will be by Dorota  
and Veto Band.

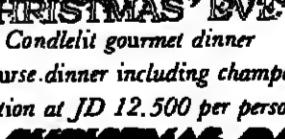
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CHRISTMAS DAY  
8 course traditional sit down lunch including  
champagne reception, presents for the children.  
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8 course traditional sit down lunch including  
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Location: Shmeisani, near Safeway International.

For further details please call 672931, Abu Mohammad or Firas.

### Cinema

NIJOM

Me Gibson & Darry Glover in

Lethal Weapon "2"

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

NIJOM

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Lethal Weapon "2"

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

COMING TO AMERICA

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

PLAZA

COMING TO AMERICA

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## World leaders welcome end of Ceausescu epoch

LONDON (R) — World leaders were eager to bury Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu as a tyrant and bully even as loyalist forces launched a counter-attack.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Ceausescu's overthrow marked the end of a bloody tyranny and praised demonstrators as heroes of an historic year in Europe.

"The people of Romania have taken liberty for themselves... that is wonderful news," Thatcher told a television interviewer. "We should spare a thought for the very courageous people who were not prepared to knock under a bloodstained tyranny."

A few hours earlier Queen Elizabeth stripped Ceausescu of an honorary knighthood awarded during a visit to London in 1978.

"This action has been taken as a mark of revulsion at the abuse of human rights in Romania for which President Ceausescu is responsible," the Foreign Office said, adding that the queen had also returned a Romanian honour Ceausescu had awarded her.

Norway's King Olav also asked Ceausescu to hand back an honorary award made in 1980. The Foreign Ministry said Olav planned to give back his own Order of the People of the Star.

In Paris President Francois Mitterrand welcomed the end of 24 years of authoritarian rule in Bucharest.

"The Romanians are free, Europe can breathe easy, it is good news for all of us," Mitterrand told reporters.

Czechoslovak reformist leader Vaclav Havel called for just punishment, but not the death sentence, for Ceausescu.

"On behalf of our gentle revolution, which probably accelerated the course of events in Romania, I ask all Romanian citizens not to pay back for violence with violence and for cruelty with cruelty," Havel said. "Demand just punishment for those who for so long and so brutally scourged your country. Stop the wave of violence lest it should flood Europe."

European Community foreign ministers meeting in Paris were

preparing an appeal against violence in Romania when the news of Ceausescu's fall came through.

They scrapped their agenda and agreed to hold a special meeting on the Romanian crisis including proposals for immediate aid.

"The international community, and in particular the European Community, must urgently come to the help of the Romanian people to help it overcome a tragic stage in its history, which has moreover had disastrous economic consequences," European Parliament President Enrique Barón said.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has volunteered to send medical and other assistance to Romania.

Romanian emigres in Paris toasted Ceausescu's apparent overthrow with champagne but deplored the loss of life involved.

"It is the end of Communism," said playwright Eugene Ionescu in a radio interview.

Romanian choreographer Gigi Caculeanu, who fled Romania in 1972 and has never returned, said he "leapt with joy" when he heard Ceausescu had been overthrown.

"Yesterday Romania was a grey country where no one laughed anymore," Ceausescu said. "Today, already, my mother told me that people were laughing in the roads. It's a sign that anything is possible."

The Soviet Union said it hoped calm would return to Romania allowing the creation of stable new government.

"We have no doubt that the Romanian people will show enough wisdom to preserve calm and stability in spite of the dramatic events and that conditions will be created for normal life, that new institutions of power will be formed in normal conditions," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfil'yev told Reuters.

White House spokesman Mar-

lin Fitzwater said "a terrible burden of dictatorial rule appears to have been lifted from Romania." He said Washington was prepared to assist the new government if it moves towards democracy.

West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said the desire for freedom swept through Europe like a storm in 1989.

"Two hundred years after the French Revolution human rights and fundamental freedoms have again proved their strength," Genscher said. "The people of Romania have won a great victory against a dictatorial regime that despised human beings."

East Germany, a staunch ally of Romania until its own revolution two months ago, hailed Ceausescu's fall, as a step toward democracy: "We extend our heartiest greetings to the Romanian people and our best wishes for success on this path."

Italian Foreign Minister Gianni de Michelis said he admired the demonstrators who had managed to overthrow Ceausescu.

"To the Romanian people, who fought with such courage, we express our admiration and also our profound condolences for the many victims," Gianni said in a statement in Paris. "The fall of Ceausescu removes the main cause of the bloody repression in Romania, and lays the basis for that people, to whom we are particularly close, to build a free and democratic future."

In the Hague several hundred people gathered in front of the Romanian embassy and burnt an effigy of Ceausescu.

Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers expressed joy that Ceausescu was out of office and said the West should quickly extend medical and humanitarian help to Romania.

"It has become ever clearer how unjust and intolerable the repression was," Lubbers said, referring to the forces recently used to put down protests in Romania.

Portuguese President Mario Soares said the removal of Ceausescu put an end to a "demented nightmare."

The bureau said this meant

Mandela would not be freed before Jan. 1.

## S. African police clash with rebels, 2 killed

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) —

A black nationalist guerrilla and a policeman were killed in a skirmish near South Africa's border with Swaziland, police said Saturday.

Police found several guerrillas Friday close to Border Gate, a frontier post near Komatipoort in eastern Transvaal province, a police spokesman said.

The suspects opened fire when police tried to make an arrest. Police killed one guerrilla and a black officer was shot dead.

The exiled African National Congress anti-apartheid group has been waging a low-level war against white rule since the early 1960s, when the organisation was outlawed in South Africa.

Meanwhile, trying to quash persistent rumours, the government said Friday that jailed black leader Nelson Mandela would not be freed before the end of the year.

There remains strong speculation, not discouraged by the government, that Mandela will be freed in January or early February. A broad range of black leaders say Mandela must be released before they can accept President F.W. De Klerk's invitation to negotiate a new constitution that would extend political rights to blacks.

Rumours that Mandela would be freed before Christmas spread earlier this week following unsubstantiated reports that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher formally requested South African authorities to take this step.

Mrs. Thatcher's office denied that any time frame had been added to her standing request that Mandela be freed "as soon as possible."

South Africa's Bureau for Information said it hoped calm would return to Romania allowing the creation of stable new government.

"We have no doubt that the Romanian people will show enough wisdom to preserve calm and stability in spite of the dramatic events and that conditions will be created for normal life, that new institutions of power will be formed in normal conditions," Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfil'yev told Reuters.

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Mandela would not be freed before Jan. 1.

## Gorbachev warns separatists of bloodshed, death in split

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday warned regional separatists who want their republics to leave the Soviet Union that secession would sow "discord, bloodshed and death."

His harsh statement was made in a parliamentary debate over a proposed constitutional committee, during which Baltic deputies denounced as illegal the Soviet Union's 1940 incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

"Nowadays to exercise self-determination through secession is to upset the union, to pit peoples against one another and to sow discord, bloodshed and death," Gorbachev said.

The Soviet leader did not elaborate, but his statement that secession would lead to violence was a clear warning to nationalists in republics around the Soviet Union of the independence of the Lithuanian state, Motsieka said.

His statements to the Congress of People's Deputies appeared to be aimed largely at the Baltic

republics of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, which have become increasingly militant in their push for more autonomy from the Kremlin.

Earlier this week the Lithuanian Communist Party defied Gorbachev and voted to declare its independence from the central Soviet party.

Gorbachev has announced the Communist Party Central Committee will hold a plenum on the issue in the next few days.

The Baltic deputies also refused to participate in the debate in Congress on the Committee of Constitutional Supervision, which began Friday.

The commission was approved on Thursday by a vote of 1,647 to 116, with 115 abstentions, despite the Baltic protests that it would infringe their rights before new relationships between the Kremlin and the 15 republics had been determined.

A Lithuanian lawmaker has challenged the Kremlin before the entire Soviet Congress to begin

talks leading to full independence for his Baltic republic.

Deputy and lawyer Kazimira Motieka told deputies that Lithuania "was forcibly included in the Soviet Union." She said if the Kremlin is serious about reform, it should reverse results of the crimes of dictator Josef Stalin, who annexed the Baltic re-

gion.

"As a person empowered by the voters of Lithuania, I call upon the government of the USSR to begin official negotiations in the near future with fully empowered representatives of Lithuania on the liquidation of Stalinist crimes and on the restoration of the independence of the Lithuanian state," Motieka said.

Drawing a parallel with the events in Romania, where President Nicolae Ceausescu overthrown Friday, Motieka said: "We also have a dictator — Moscow. If the Soviet Union is building a government of laws, well, legality and occupation don't go together."

## Column 8

### Thousands turn into peseta millionaires

MADRID, Spain (AP) — The world's richest lottery turned thousands of Spaniards into peseta millionaires Friday, as orphan boys and girls sang out winning numbers in a Gregorian chant for an expectant nation tuned into television and radio broadcasts. Orphans of St. Ildefonso Orphanage near Madrid sang out the number — 61,714 — of the coveted prize El Gordo, the fat one, spreading joy across the southeastern town of Paiporta, outside Valencia. Hundreds of people swamped the streets of Paiporta, where the winning series was sold, including some who popped open champagne bottles, Spanish national radio said. El Gordo, also called the Christmas Lottery, paid out 250 million pesetas (\$2.2 million) to each of 80 tickets bearing the same winning number, or a total of 20 billion pesetas (\$1.76 million) in prize money. Since each of the 80 tickets were spread among family, friends and fellow workers, the tax-free cash prizes were widely shared.

### Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	°C	°F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	03	37	14	57	Cloudy
ATHENS	08	46	19	66	Cloudy
BAIRAIN	15	59	22	86	Clear
BANGKOK	19	68	33	91	Clear
Buenos Aires	20	68	33	90	Clear
CAIRO	10	50	20	68	Cloudy
CHICAGO	-24	-12	12	57	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	04	38	11	52	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	04	38	11	52	Cloudy
GENEVA	04	38	11	52	Cloudy
HONG KONG	17	63	19	66	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	07	45	18	64	Clear
LONDON	05	41	22	68	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	08	46	23	74	Clear
MADRID	06	46	13	55	Cloudy
MECCA	23	68	30	86	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-23	-13	-26	-31	Snow
MOSCOW	02	38	22	56	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	10	52	22	71	Cloudy
NEW YORK	03	38	6	46	Cloudy
PARIS	03	37	14	57	Cloudy
ROME	03	37	18	64	Clear
SYDNEY	16	64	23	73	Cloudy
TOKYO	05	41	13	55	Cloudy
VIENNA	06	41	09	49	Cloudy

## Hungary to hold elections in March

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Acting President Matyas Szűcs announced Friday that the country's first competitive elections in 41 years will be held on March 25, the Hungarian News Agency (MTI) reported.

On Thursday, parliament approved itself on March 16 to dissolve itself on March 16 to pave the way for the first multiparty elections since 1948.

Hungary will become the first Soviet Bloc country to hold free elections resulting from the reform movement sweeping East

ern Europe.

A non-Communist government took power in Poland in August after opposition candidates won all the seats they were allowed to contest, then formed an alliance that forced the Communists to give them control of the cabinet.

Free elections are expected next year in three other Soviet Bloc countries.

East Germany has scheduled elections for May 6, and Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia have announced plans for free elections

before the end of June.

In contrast to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria, where popular revolts swiftly forced hard-line Communist leaders from power, Hungary's evolution to democracy has been gradual.

Legislation was passed in parliament in October to set the legal groundwork for the free elections, and the Communist Party and

aspiring to democratic ideals.

## Salvadorean rebels call truce over Christmas, New Year

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadorean guerrillas have called a truce over the Christmas and New Year holiday, giving the first breather in their fiercest offensive to date.

In a communiqué telephoned to Reuters from Mexico City, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels said, "we will declare a truce from 0000 hours (0600 GMT) Dec. 23 to Jan. 2, 1990."

The decision was taken because

of the "profound religious feelings that these festivities give our people and the need for family unity in these days," the communiqué said.

An armed forces spokesman said he was unaware of the truce offer, but he said if the rebels held their fire the U.S.-backed military would suspend counter-insurgency operations even though "guaranteeing the security of the civilian population."

Fighting in the capital has eased since the peak of the offensive, but fierce combat was reported Thursday in outlying regions. Seven guerrillas and one soldier were killed during clashes, the armed forces said.

## THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etelson

### X-WORDS

By Elizabeth Arthur

1 ACROSS  
1 US journalist  
2 Kaffir warriors  
4 Piece of gossip  
8 Model builders  
10 Model  
14 Piece of gossip  
18 Comptroller  
20 Kind of save  
21 Thinner  
22 Throats  
23 Part back and forth  
25 Man for  
27 Putting to work  
28 Pound words  
30 At all  
31 Dog tag blue  
32 Crispy  
33 Corset  
37 Without — in  
38 Without — in  
39 The world

40 Frontal curls of hair  
41 Glan — Menet<br